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Carmel Woman Sentenced for Bank Embezzlement and Credit Card Fraud

Bangor, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that **Wendy Dunlea**, 34, of Carmel, Maine, was sentenced on May 9, 2007 in U.S. District Court in Bangor, to 63 months imprisonment, 5 years supervised release and restitution of \$578,888.01 for bank embezzlement and credit card fraud. Dunlea pled guilty on December 22, 2006.

According to court records, from January 1999 to July 2005, Dunlea was employed by Bangor Savings Bank as manager of its Bucksport, Maine, branch. In that capacity, Dunlea had access to customer account information and had authority to process deposits and withdrawals, loan applications, account openings and closings and a wide variety of other transactions involving customer accounts. She also had authority to issue bank checks to customers for loan proceeds, account closings and other transactions involving bank funds.

From November 1999 to June 2005, Dunlea made loans against customer Certificates of Deposit, converted customer funds to her own use, and withdrew customer funds for her own benefit, totaling more than \$550,000.00, all without the consent or knowledge of the bank customers. Two of the victims were Dunlea's parents and a third was her mother-in-law. All of the remaining victims were senior citizens (ranging in age from 78 to 91) whose accounts showed high balances but little activity.

In August 1999 Dunlea also obtained a credit card in her father's name and between that date and August 2005, she charged a total of over \$18,000.00 without her father's knowledge or consent. In May 2001 Dunlea obtained a credit card in her mother's name and between that date May 9, 2007 and August 2006, she charged a total of almost \$7,700.00 without her mother's knowledge.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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